

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/039,486

Examiner

Dennis G. Bonshock

Applicant(s)

SUBRAMANIAN ET AL.

Art Unit

2173

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to 12-12-05.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 2-4,6-8,11,17-23,25-29 and 31-33.
3. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.
THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
- (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
- 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____
7. ☐ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____

RAYMOND J. BAYERL
PRIMARY EXAMINER
ART UNIT 2173

Allowable Subject Matter

1. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:
2. The examiner considered the Applicant's Amendment filed on 12-12-2005 and after updated search, no other prior art of record has taught that which was presented in the amended claims
3. Therefore, claims 2-4, 6-8, 11, 17-23, 25-29, and 31-33, are allowable.
4. Independent claims 25 and 32, when considered as a whole, are allowable over the prior art of record (Stucka et al., Patent #5,596,702, hereinafter Stucka). Stucka teaches, in column 7, lines 14-26 and 46-62, in column 8, lines 37-40, and in figure 2, a merged interface comprising software application interface elements and component interface elements, in column 10, lines 45-65, the User Interface Server (UIS) accepting events from the user and the UIS responding to commands by attaching and deleting portions of the user interfaces, in column 6, line 66 through column 7, line 13, the association of a particular functionality with a user interface component, and further teaches in column 18, lines 47-49 and in column 20, lines 13-32, multiple users on a server from which users access a data store storing components. Stucka teaches a system that combines an application user interface with additional elements (components/tools), and allows for access of the object store over a network, providing access to objects that are being used by other applications (shared), however, specifically the prior art of record fails to clearly teach or support the limitations of "storing associations between components (or tools) and users; providing access to shared components associated with different users; and hiding a shared component

from users not associated with the shared component". This provides components (or tools) to only a subset of the total users who have access to an application program, restricting access, to this installed tool, from other users who can access the software application user interface.

5. Independent claims 31 ad 33 when considered as a whole, are allowable over the prior art of record (Stucka et al., Patent #5,596,702, hereinafter Stucka). Stucka teaches, in column 7, lines 14-26 and 46-62, in column 8, lines 37-40, and in figure 2, a merged interface comprising software application interface elements and component interface elements, in column 10, lines 45-65, the User Interface Server (UIS) accepting events from the user and the UIS responding to commands by attaching and deleting portions of the user interfaces, in column 6, line 66 through column 7, line 13, the association of a particular functionality with a user interface component, and further teaches in column 18, lines 47-49 and in column 20, lines 13-32, multiple user on a server from which users access a data store storing components. Stucka teaches a system that combines an application user interface with additional elements (components/tools), and allows for access of the object store over a network, providing access to objects that are being used by other applications (shared), however, specifically the prior art of record fails to clearly teach or support the limitations of "storing associations between a plurality of tools and a plurality of users; providing access to shared tools associated with different users; and hiding a tool user interface element from users not associated with the tool". This provides components (or tools) to only a subset of the total users who have access to an application program,

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restricting access, to this installed tool, from other users who can access the software application user interface.

6. Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."


Conclusion

7. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Dennis G. Bonshock whose telephone number is (571) 272-4047. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Friday, 6:30 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

8. If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, John Cabeca can be reached on (571) 272-4048. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

9. Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

8-26-2005
dgb


RAYMOND J. BAYERL
PRIMARY EXAMINER
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